



PRESS RELEASE

Statement from Attorney General Brian Frosh on Orlando Mass Shooting

Baltimore, MD (June 14, 2016) - Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh issued the following statement in reaction to the mass shooting in Orlando, taking the lives of 49 victims, the deadliest massacre in U.S. modern history:

"The horror that unfolded in the early morning hours in Orlando was a massacre, driven by hate, perpetrated by a single individual armed with an AR-15 and large capacity magazines. It is no coincidence that this same military-style assault weapon was responsible for the slaughter of 20 children and 6 adults in an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, for the murder of 12 people with 70 more wounded in a theater in Aurora, Colorado, and for far too many other mass killings.

Assault weapons equipped with large capacity magazines are the weapons of choice for mass murderers - and for terrorists driven by hate. They make it all too easy for a single individual to inflict mass casualties and drive up the death toll in a matter of minutes. The federal assault weapon ban was allowed to expire in 2004, and the tragic consequences and terrible costs for our Nation are beyond words.

Common sense gun laws and reinstating the federal ban on these military-style assault weapons should be one of our country's top priorities. As Attorney General, I remain fully committed to defending Maryland's assault weapons ban, and to supporting the courageous votes of state and federal legislators who work every day to protect public safety and reduce the risk of deadly gun violence.

We need to stand together as a nation to end this epidemic. My heart goes out to the families of victims as they mourn the loss of their loved ones. As our President has said, our thoughts and prayers alone are no longer enough."